

**Quarterly Issues and Programming Report
January 2011 thru March 2011**

WCTX/MyTV9

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Community Issues:

January:

01/17/11: Good Morning CT 7am - 1:25

"MLK Celebration"

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Junior holiday. This federal holiday was first celebrated in 1986. Its a day off for many... but today many people won't just relax... they'll do community service in the honor of the civil rights leader. In 1994 Congress designated today a national day of service... encouraging people to get involved in their cities... and work toward creating solutions to social problems. Dr. King was killed in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. Governor Dannel Malloy will join the Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission at a ceremony. Other elected officials and community advocates are also expected to speak about Dr. King's life beginning at 11 this morning. The celebration is open to the public. Its going on at the Hall of Flags.

01/19/11: News 8 at 10pm - :45

"Handicap Van Donation"

Seniors in southeastern Connecticut will now be riding in style. A brand-new bus was donated to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center... by two families inspired by a former teacher. Lydia and Allan Teixeira -- along with Ray and Sherry Quinlan -- donated the 46-thousand dollar bus. They were all students of Martin Pierce... a teacher at Stonington High School... and the past president of the neighborhood center. The bus, which can accommodate fourteen passengers and two wheelchairs is much needed. The senior community in the Stonington area is growing and the neighborhood center's other bus is often in need of repair.

01/26/11: Good Morning CT 7am -- :25

"Blood Donations"

The winter weather is hurting the Red Cross blood supply. The Red Cross says... all these snow storms have caused 14-thousand people to cancel blood donations on the East Coast. Most of those cancellations are in the Northeast. The Red Cross is urging people to get out there and donate... if travel conditions are safe.

February:

02/10/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"YMCA Vandalism"

Norwich is looking for help from surrounding towns to help reopen the YMCA. The city says a community center in the Main Street building could fill a common need throughout the region. City leaders were shocked when they took a tour of the building last week and saw extensive damage. Chairs were thrown through walls, wiring was ripped out, and glass racquet ball walls were shattered. The Mayor says the destruction won't stop the city from asking for help with the hope of offering activities to young people and families.

02/15/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"New Haven First Niagara Cuts"

New Haven's Mayor is urging the Connecticut Department of Banking to block the merger between New Alliance Bank and First Niagara. More than 200 layoffs are coming in the merger. The announcement comes as First Niagara announced it will be a "presenting sponsor" for the "New Haven Open at Yale." Mayor DeStefano says that is a goodwill gesture from a bank --- he says the merger is not in the best interest of small business, homeowners or job creation in his city. "It's bad for Connecticut's economy what's going to happen is our lending decision are all going to move to Buffalo." First Niagara -- based in Buffalo, New York -- says it is committed to serving the community. But the mayor says people need only look back at what happened when New Alliance took over New Haven Savings 7 years ago.

02/28/11: News 8 at 10pm - :45

"Tent City Fundraiser"

Some community groups that help deal with New Haven's homeless population got a financial boost today. Back in November the city held its third annual Tent City fundraiser. The idea is to raise awareness about homelessness and to raise money. The event raised 20 thousand dollars. Today that money was handed out to five community groups. This is the third year of the tent city fundraiser.

March:

03/01/11: News 8 at 10pm -- 1:00

"New Haven Public Safety Meeting"

More talk tonight about HOW the police layoffs in New Haven will impact the overall budget and safety in the city. The police chief told the public safety committee the city CANNOT afford any more losses. Six school resource officers have been reassigned to patrol following the job cuts. In these tough financial times --- Chief Limon says the department must be smarter in how it deploys its resources. Yet he was criticized for coming to the meeting to talk about staffing without knowing the important details of the NEW budget and how he would fill some critical positions like the bar patrol on the weekends. There are currently 434 New Haven officers on the streets. That number is constantly fluctuating with retirement. The city's chief administrator told the committee there are no plans right now for ANY additional police layoffs.

03/11/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Blumenthal Flooding"

Senator Richard Blumenthal will be in the Housatonic valley meeting with officials in Oxford, Monroe and Shelton. They'll be talking about the response to the flooding.. notification issues.. and possible federal assistance.

03/17/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :30

"Save the Children"

One Connecticut group is working to help the youngest victims of the disaster in Japan. Westport based "Save the Children" already has a team of 30 people on the ground in Japan. They're setting up Child Friendly spaces inside Evacuation centers giving kids backpacks with crayons, books and a teddy bear. They estimate that there are about one hundred thousand children in the affected area. If you would like to donate to save the children we have a link on our website at wtnh.com.

Health:

January:

01/04/11: Good Morning CT 7am - :30

“Football Helmet Safety:

In health news this morning - A call for a federal investigation into alleged misleading safety claims in the sale of new football helmets. Senator Todd Udall of New Mexico sent a letter to the Federal Trade commission. He says companies "appear to be using misleading advertising claims" and that "some helmet reconditioning companies may be falsely selling used helmets as meeting an industry safety standard." One helmet company specifically cited in the letter -- says they believe the Senator's allegations are unfounded and unfair.

01/06/11: Good Morning CT 7am - :35

“Autism Study”

Health news this morning... A 19-98 study linking autism to vaccines panicked a lot of parents -- leading some to stop vaccinating their children. But now the research is being called a fraud. A British medical journal says the author, Doctor Andrew Wakefield, deliberately faked data to prove his argument. The study has since been retracted -- and Wakefield stripped of his medical license in Britain. Wakefield has denied the allegations. Medical experts say measles cases in Britain and the U-S went up because frightened parents did not have their children vaccinated for it.

01/20/11: Good Morning CT 7am - :45

“Beating Winter Blues:

Winter is in full force... and some folks love the chill.. but for others... the weather gets them down. But... there is a lot we can do to fight the blues... and so this morning we have just a couple tips from the experts at Spark People dot com. First... get some sun. Yes... there is less sun during the winter... but the sunlight provides us with Vitamin D. A lack of sunlight can cause people to get depressed. Act on your resolutions. A recent study from the Centers For Disease Control showed a strong link between healthy behaviors and depression. More healthy behaviors like exercising and not smoking... less sadness. Embrace the season. Instead of always avoiding the cold... look for the best in the situation. Try taking up a winter sport like ice skating, snowboarding, hockey, or even sledding!

01/27/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

“Hospitals and shoveling”

Hospitals across Connecticut are reporting a spike in heart attacks and other injuries all due to shoveling. People are out in force, trying to clear their driveways and sidewalks. Health experts say you should be mindful of the health risks. The cold weather and heavy lifting he says -- is the perfect storm for someone with risk factors for heart disease. Dr. Henry Cabin, Yale New Haven Hospital "what happens in the body is either an artery, severely blocked in the heart is uncovered because of the load on the heart or when adrenaline comes pouring out, plax can rupture and heart attacks can occur." James Winns, Yale New Haven Hospital New Haven "it's beating alot faster than it normally do. I'm shoveling, its stressful." Doctors say when shoveling, be sure to pace yourself and be aware of your limits.

February:

02/04/11: Good Morning CT at 7am – 1:00

“Superbowl Snacks – Bad”

Besides the commercials, the snacks are also a huge part of Super Bowl Sunday. There is a good chance many of them could be unhealthy. Men's Health has some of the best and worst foods. But the magazine reports as a nation we'll down a collective 156 billion calories during the game. Some of the worst foods for a pre-game snack are chicken wings. Six wings will set you back nearly 6-hundred calories 40 grams of fat but no carbs. A bad for you veggie snack is

spinach artichoke dip. A quarter cup of dip along with eight chips will set you back 325 calories. And, the worst cheesy snack is nachos. These could cost you more than 1-thousand calories! Healthier choices to try instead, a bowl of chili will set you back less than 300 calories but cost you about 30 carbs. Tomato Bruschetta... two pieces are around 200 calories. And, instead of nachos... to satisfy your cheesy craving.. goldfish cheddar crackers are only about 140 calories. But if you're gonna splurge the big game may be a good reason.

02/07/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :23

"Trans Fat Ban"

The City of Hartford is worried about your health. They're considering a ban on Trans Fats. The councilmen who introduced the resolution say it is intended to improve health and reduce health care costs. Doctors say trans fats raise cholesterol levels and can lead to heart disease and certain types of cancer and obesity. Connecticut's restaurant association says more places don't cook with trans fats anymore.

02/16/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Breakfast on the go"

Life is fast paced... many folks will be grabbing breakfast on the go this morning. Bu breakfast from a fast-food joint doesn't always mean unhealthy. Health Magazine just announced their top 10 picks for healthy chain-restaurants. We're looking at the top 5 of those picks this morning. Coming in at number 5... Denny's scrambled egg whites, chicken sausage and fruit, with. 230 calories. Number 4... Au Bon Pain's apple-cinnamon oatmeal that will set you back 280 calories. In the third spot, Jamba Juice's berry topper ideal meal the smoothie is 300 calories. Coming in at number 2... Starbucks' s protein artisan snack plate. Certainly a lot of protein with everything from cheese to peanutbutter but it also has more calories than the other choices... with 370. And, in the magazine's top spot Cosi's spinach Florentine breakfast wrap with 334 calories.

02/18/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :45

"What's In Cold Medicine"

Health news this morning... If you've been to the doctor for a cough or cold this season he or she may have recommended medicine for your symptoms. But.. Just what's in these products? A pharmacist fills us in. "There really are very few actual ingredients that you what you see in the cough and cold area are just combinations of things as well as individual products. Decongestants are really only 2 decongestants approved for over the counter sale, actually one now is behind the counter that's the old pseudoephedrine and the other is phenalephrine." Remember, Decongestants may raise your blood pressure. Also, to loosen mucus in the chest, some products contain an expectorant. Others contain a cough suppressant. And before you take any medication, it's a good idea to talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

March:

03/02/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - ::55

"Addicted to Electronics"

Are you one of those people who can't turn off the cell phone even on vacation? Well, you're not alone. But is this a healthy habit? And what would happen, if all of a sudden we became unplugged? That's what two hundred journalism students from the University of Maryland were asked to do: Give up their electronic connections for 24 hours and keep a diary of how it felt. The results? Not only did they use the words addiction and dependency and control, but they literally reported physical and mental states that one would associate with people who are addicted. Can we be addicted to our mp-3s, computers and smart phones? Psychologists say sure, so much that we no longer relax and relate to one another. Doctors recommend for healthy interaction, get off the social network and begin socializing with one another face to face.

03/08/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Potassium Rich Foods/Health"

Eating more bananas and other foods rich in potassium could be good for your heart. Researchers found that a diet with potassium rich foods could reduce your risk for stroke by 21 percent and also lower your risk for heart disease. Fish, Poultry, Dairy, fruits and vegetables are all rich in potassium. You can find the study in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

03/17/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Dogs and Heart"

Dog owners and people who want to own dogs will love this. Spot or Fido may actually be good for your heart. New research shows people who own dogs are more than 30-percent more likely to get the amount of exercise they should get each week. They can thank their furry friends for that. Dogs are apparently great motivators for doing things like walking! The study was in this month's Journal of Physical Activity and Health.

Education:

January:

01/05/11: Good Morning CT 7am - :25

"School CO Poisoning"

Dozens of grade-school kids are going to be okay after getting sick from a carbon monoxide leak at their Waterbury school. Fire officials say... an access door to a water heater at the Barnard Elementary School was broken... allowing carbon monoxide onto the second floor of the building. Carbon monoxide has no color, taste or odor and symptoms of poisoning can be confused with those of a flu.

01/06/11: News 8 at 10pm - 2:00

"Education Funding"

Deep cuts in state aid to local schools... are raising concerns about just what this might cost, in both jobs... and taxpayer money. The New Governor is addressing this crisis on his first day on the job. News 8's Chief Political Correspondent Mark Davis has more from Hartford. "This first time ever coalition...joined together because of our concern over an urgent issue....we are about to go over a cliff." Nearly 3-thousand public school teacher jobs have been lost in the past two years because of budget restraints...and it is estimated at least that many more will be lost in the next two if the over half a billion dollars in federal stimulus aid cities and towns received is not replaced. The coalition of school superintendents and boards of ed say it amounts to 14 percent of school budgets statewide and without it; art classes, after school athletics and a lot more will have to go...in fact some town school representatives said today the coalition's warning isn't dire enough. BELOIN-SAAVEDRA "We're beyond talking about after school programming and art and music and PE, we've already cut those to the bare bones." [DAVIS] It's actually worse than they're saying? [BELOIN-SAAVEDRA] "It absolutely is in urban areas...for us; we're talking about bumping up class size to thirty-plus..cutting into science programming, social studies programming and other core areas." And some said cut backs in the smaller towns will be just as bad. CRAYBAS "Upward of 25 teachers, 25 very talented education well educated master degree teachers." At his first news confrence today...Governor Malloy said he hears the message...and his goal is to fill that 14 percent gap if he can. MALLOY "It is my desire to do that...to hold communities harmless of that loss and that's a goal that I have in preparing a budget to send to the legislature." CRAYBAS "We send 32 cents out of every tax dollar to Hartford and we're getting back 8 cents...now, we're going to get back less than that. My town can't absorb that any longer."

01/17/11: Good Morning CT 7am - :22

"Campus Sex Crimes"

A state Lawmaker wants school boards to be able to expel students for committing violent sex crimes even if it's off school grounds. State Sen. Kevin Witkos says students should be protected from convicted rapists when they are classmates. Witkos says his bill wouldn't include sexual contact between teens in dating relationships...but those who commit violent - non-consensual sex assaults.

01/24/11: News 8 at 10pm - :25

"CCSU Grief Counselors"

Counselors are on campus this week at Central Connecticut State University. Students are returning to class and learning the news that two of their classmates were killed in an accident on the Charter Oak Bridge in Hartford early Saturday morning. Police say... 24-year-old Brittany Mariani of Ludlow, Massachusetts and her 20-year-old boyfriend... Rich Royster of Ossining, New York both died when their car hit a parked truck. The cause of the crash is under investigation by State Police.

February:

02/11/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"Education Funding"

The kids at the Roger Sherman Elementary School in Meriden were thrilled today to be the first school kids to get a visit from Governor Dannel Malloy....but the kids weren't nearly as thrilled as the Superintendent of Schools here. Mark Benigni has a unique perspective on school funding he's a former school principal...and was elected Mayor of Meriden four times. This is what Benigni and other school superintendents and mayors across the state are thrilled about. "We are going to fully fund E.C.S. at the current year's level, yes, and that means that we're going to plug the hole which has been a ticking time bomb that was set up for us." E.C.S. is the Education Cost Sharing Formula that the state uses to fund local schools. 50 percent of Meriden's 100 million dollar school budget comes from it...and a large chunk of that came from the Obama Administration last year...a chunk that is no longer coming from the feds. "Without question we all are breathing a sigh of relief...that could have accounted for 100 staff positions...we would have been at risk to lose 7.6 million dollars...our system would have been desecrated." So when Malloy announced this week that he will fill that gap when he announces his budget plan next week, has not only saved teacher jobs...it may save the school in your neighborhood. "The way this school system runs and operates would have changed tremendously. We might have been talking about how many schools we were going to close." But Malloy is not going to be able to fulfill this promise without finding money somewhere...and that likely to be coming from your pocket....he says details of his revenue plan will come out early next week.

02/16/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :44

"Stratford School Meeting"

It was standing room only AT A SCHOOL MEETING in Stratford after word got out that schools could be shut down to save money. There was a standing ovation after a unanimous vote by the "Long-range Facilities Planning Committee" *not* to close any schools, for now. The town voted there isn't enough evidence to support one closure over another. The acting superintendent says shutting schools would have sent the wrong message. The issue doesn't go away. The recommendations will go before the board of Ed next week.

02/28/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :23

"Achievement Gap"

State lawmakers are set to review some education proposals ...aimed at narrowing the gap between wealthy and low-income students. The legislature's Education committee plans a public

hearing on a bill. It involves more than a dozen proposals including...allowing some school districts to make the school day and academic year longer...and making it easier for out-of-state teachers to get certified in Connecticut...

March:

03/07/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"CT Juveniles Education"

Juveniles who are temporarily locked up may soon be able to keep up with their class work. State educators say kids are held at juvenile detention centers an average of 15 days. A bill in the general assembly would make formal arrangements for teaching, funding, and a curriculum to make sure kids get class credits.

03/17/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Drop Out Rate"

Connecticut lawmakers are considering a proposal today to boost the high school dropout age to 18. Connecticut teens can currently leave school at 16 with permission from a parent or guardian. The new proposal would eliminate that provision and require students to attend school until they reach 18 or graduate.

03/18/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"School Reforms"

A plan to boost Connecticut's graduation requirements and make other wide-ranging education changes is being placed on hold because of budget problems. The legislature's education committee voted Thursday to delay the plans for two years, though lawmakers said it pained them and they still strongly endorsed the changes. The reforms were adopted last year, depending largely on getting up to \$175 million in federal "Race to the Top" grants. Connecticut's application was denied, though. The state needs about \$25 million to launch the reforms or would have to push the costs onto local school districts. Legislators say the delay preserves the ideas from being killed altogether. They hope the state's budget improves in a few years, or that the federal government announces another grant program like "Race to the Top."

Crime:

January:

01/04/11: News 8 at 10pm - :20

"Hartford Crime Stats"

Despite this latest violence the Hartford Police Department says crime in the Capitol City is down. The city has seen about a 30-percent drop in crime over the last five years. In the past year the number of homicides, robberies, rapes and auto thefts were all down. In 2010 for the first time in five years there were fewer than one thousand cars stolen in Hartford.

01/12/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :40

"Waterbury Swastika Found"

An image of hate defaces a place of worship. Police in Waterbury are investigating after a swastika was found spray-painted at a Synagogue. This is a picture of what was found painted on the rear of the B'Nai Shalom Synagogue on Roseland Avenue. You can see the swastika and below it, the word 'Nazi'. It's since been cleaned off the building. Police say this is a hate crime... and anyone arrested will face serious charges. They have extra detectives working the case, trying to find out who's responsible. Senator Richard Blumenthal paid a visit to the synagogue

yesterday. In a statement, he said "This bigoted action is an attack on our community, and we will not stand for it."

01/14/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Fork and Knife Crime"

An arrest made in a bizarre case of threatening. The Middletown Press reports a woman is facing charges accused of threatening to stab a person with a fork and a knife. 37- year old Latrele Hall of Middletown was charged with carrying a dangerous weapon and breach of peace after a fight on Main Street. She's due in court later this month.

01/24/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :30

"Baby Abduction Arrest"

The story has made headlines across the country. A baby kidnapped from a New York City Hospital was finally reunited with her birth parents after 23 years. This morning, the woman who allegedly kidnapped her and raised her in Bridgeport is due in court to face charges. Authorities say Ann Pettway turned herself in yesterday in Bridgeport. This is an old mug shot from a past crime. Carlina White says she had a nagging feeling all her life that she was brought up by a family she didn't belong to. She has since been reunited with her biological family.

February:

02/14/11: News 8 at 10pm - :30

"Mystic Hair Salon Brawl"

Complaints over a haircut over the weekend may have lead to a fight inside a New London salon. Police say 33-year-old Jovetta Wilson, a hairdresser, attacked 25 year old Omara Francis with a pair of scissors after she complained about her haircut at Eva's Beauty Salon. A window in the Ocean Avenue salon was smashed in the fight. Both women face charges, including risk of injury to a minor because there were children present. A woman who told us she was Eva... but no longer owned Eva's Salon... says the hairdresser no longer works there.

02/21/11: Good Morning CT at 7am -:20

"New Haven Guardian Angels"

New Haven's chapter of the Guardian Angels are calling in reinforcements and stepping up patrols over the weekend. They say they're covering the gap left behind by layoffs at the New Haven P-D.

02/28/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"New Haven Serial Rapist Search"

New developments tonight in the search for the so-called "East Coast Rapist." Digital billboards now display a composite sketch of the man... who is wanted for attacks in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Virginia and Maryland. Investigators say... at least a dozen women were raped by the same man between 1997 and 2009 including one woman in New Haven. DNA evidence has linked the suspect to all of the crimes. A 25 thousand dollar reward is being offered for a tip that leads to an arrest and conviction. If you know anything that can help... you're being urged to call the Crime Solvers hotline at '1-866-411-TIPS'

March:

03/02/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Hamden Robbery"

Hamden police are looking for two suspects in an armed robbery. The two masked men walked into the Supplement King store on Dixwell Avenue yesterday afternoon, pistol whipped an

employee, kicked a customer and smashed phones. They got away with cash and some other items. There have been 6 holdups in Hamden in the last 2 weeks alone. If you know anything about this crime you are urged to contact Hamden Police.

03/03/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"Fake Utility Workers"

A warning from Montville police, watch out for people posing as utility workers. Authorities say they've received a lot of calls reporting people knocking on their doors and trying to talk their way in or asking for personal information. The culprits seem to be working in pairs and can be women or men. If they knock on the door and they're met by someone they're coming up with an excuse why they're there but if no one's there they'll go to the back door and knock there and once they get no answer they'll break in. Police say, if you did not call for a worker to come to your home be suspicious.

03/17/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :50

"Jury Selection"

Jury selection continues today... ahead of the second trial in the Cheshire home invasion case. They need 12 Jurors and 9 alternates -- but on 'day one' of jury selection.. they didn't pick one juror for the trial of suspect Joshua Komisarjevsky. Komisarjevsky was in court -- with a new crew cut. He's charged with killing Jennifer Hawke Petit and her daughters Hayley and Michaela. The first question potential jurors are asked -- "What do you already know about the Cheshire home invasion killings?" Most admit to knowing something.. and having strong feelings about the crime. Jury selection IS MOVING forward even though the judge is planning to hold a hearing on a motion that Komisarjevsky be allowed to plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence.

Consumer Issues:

January:

01/05/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Auto Sales"

Automakers recorded an increase of more than 11 percent in consumer demand for new cars last year. More than 11 million cars, trucks and SUVs were sold last year and December showed solid improvement in sales for Detroit's big three. However-- Toyota's sales were down about 6 percent last month.

01/25/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Malloy Consumer Protection"

Governor Malloy has tapped a lawyer who worked on the big tobacco settlement a decade ago to be the state's new Consumer Protection Commissioner. 59 year old William Rubenstein of West Hartford formerly worked in the Attorney General's office and is currently in the anti-trust division of a large Hartford law firm. Rubenstein says he has his sights set on 'e-commerce' and internet scams as a high priority. Rubenstein says that while he wants to protect on-line users from scams...he also wants his department to help promote on-line commerce.

01/28/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Stop and Shop Salad Recall"

Stop and shop is recalling some bagged salad that may contain Listeria. The recall involved several Nature's Promise Organic salads including spinach, romaine, spring mix, and baby lettuce. They have a "best if Used by Date of January 15th". We'll get the whole list on our website later this morning. There have been no reported illnesses..

February:

02/08/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Toyota Recall"

The government plans to release its findings of an investigation into runaway Toyotas. At issue is whether faulty electronics played a role in a series of safety recalls. Toyota has recalled more than 11-million vehicles globally since the fall of 2009 to address sticky gas pedals or pedals that became trapped in floor mats.

02/16/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Tortilla Chip Recall"

Stop & Shop" is taking some tortilla chip's off the shelves because THEY may contain wheat and soy not listed on the labels. The ingredients could trigger an allergic reaction. 'Garden of Eatin's -- multi grain sea salt tortilla chips, multi grain blue sea salt... and multi grain everything chips- are being pulled. The products have also been recalled at other stores

02/17/11: News 8 at 10pm - :30

"Rising Consumer Prices"

Cash-strapped Americans are now being hit with rising costs from food to fuel. Bad weather and political unrest are being blamed for it. Oil prices have shot up to about 85-dollars a barrel following pro-democracy protests and threats of Iranian warships in the Suez Canal. The World Bank says global food prices have also hit "dangerous levels." Officials say corn prices are up nearly 60 percent causing cereal and meat to cost more. And the cost of cotton is also at a 15 year high...increasing the cost of a pair of jeans by about 4 dollars.

02/28/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"iPhone Grip Issues"

Just like the AT&T iPhone some Customers of Verizon's iPhone 4 are dealing with the "death grip" problem. That's poor reception and dropped calls. Consumer Reports says it used the same tests it ran on the original iPhone 4 for AT&T. Now Consumer Reports says it won't include the Verizon iPhone on its list of recommended smart phones.

March:

03/02/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"Automakers Discounts"

It turns out major automakers took a bit off sticker prices last month... giving more momentum to a recovery in auto sales that began last year. Good news for buyers... Discounts are likely to continue into the spring. Sales are expected to exceed expectations.

03/05/11: News 8 at 10pm - :25

"Skippy Peanut Butter Recall"

We have a recall tonight to tell you about. It has to do with a certain types of Skippy Peanut Butter. Skippy Reduced Fat Creamy Peanut Butter Spread and Skippy Reduced Fat Super Chunk Peanut Butter Spread are both being recalled because they may be contaminated with Salmonella.

03/10/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :15

"Facebook/Collections:"

A Florida judge has ordered a debt collections company to stop using "facebook and twitter" to track down delinquent borrowers. The company tried to get the woman to pay up on a 362 dollar

bill by posting a message on her facebook page and on the pages of her friends and family. Her attorneys say it was a violation of privacy and consumer protection laws.

Government, Economy, & Law

January:

01/01/11: News 8 at 10pm - :20

"CT New Year New Laws"

A New Year means new laws and today several of them took effect. As of today people applying for a motorcycle license will have to attend an educational course. Another new law creates an additional penalty for solicitors who violate the "Do Not Call List." And a third law allows local farms to sell homemade acidic items, such as pickles and salsa.

01/04/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Food Supply Bill"

Once President Obama gets in town, he's set to sign a bill aimed at improving food safety. The bill overhauls the way the feds inspect food by giving them new power when it comes to processing plants. It also gives the government more power when it comes to dealing with companies that make tainted products. The bill is in response to several e-coli and salmonella poisonings in recent years.

01/13/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"GM Stock Sales"

A new report from a congressional watchdog says the government sale of General Motors shares for \$33 each reduced the chances taxpayers will fully recover their 50-billion investment in the auto giant. But government officials say GM's stock averaged only 3-percent above that price after the initial public offering -- a sign the stock was fairly priced.

01/25/11: News 8 at 10pm - :30

"Blumenthal State of the Union"

It was the first State of the Union address for Richard Blumenthal since being elected Senator. Blumenthal told us this afternoon from Washington D-C he crossed the aisle to sit with New Hampshire's newly-elected Republican senator Kelly Ayotte also a former attorney general. Blumenthal says he wanted specifics on job creation and economic growth. He also says he supports President Obama's 5-year freeze on government spending. Blumenthal says job creation should be Congress' top priority.

February:

02/02/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"FEMA Response"

In response to our wild winter weather more Federal Emergency Management personnel have been sent to the state. A FEMA representative *has been on hand at the State Emergency Operations center in Hartford since the big January 12th storm helping with applications for federal aid. But now additional members have responded here. And Governor Malloy hopes the government will consider the *string of storms and problems we've had... in such a short span of time... not just that one big storm. The five-person FEMA "Incident Management Assistance

Team"... that was sent here today.... will help out with immediate needs the state may have... in dealing with emergencies.

02/08/11: News 8 at 10pm - :30

"Sunday Liquor Sales"

The debate over Sunday liquor sales is back before state lawmakers. A public hearing was held today at the State Capitol on a bill that would allow Connecticut's liquor and grocery stores to sell alcohol on Sunday. A legislative report shows it would bring in millions for the state. But... the state's Package Store Association has been flat-out against the idea for years. They argue... it will drive hundreds of smaller shops out of business. Governor Dannel Malloy calls the bill a 'no brainer'.. saying he will sign it into law... if it passes.

02/15/11: News 8 at 10pm - :30

"New Haven First Niagara Cuts"

New Haven's Mayor is urging the Connecticut Department of Banking to block the merger between New Alliance Bank and First Niagara. More than 200 layoffs are coming in the merger. The announcement comes as First Niagara announced it will be a "presenting sponsor" for the "New Haven Open at Yale." Mayor DeStefano says that is a goodwill gesture from a bank --- he says the merger is not in the best interest of small business, homeowners or job creation in his city. First Niagara -- based in Buffalo, New York -- says it is committed to serving the community. But the mayor says people need only look back at what happened when New Alliance took over New Haven Savings 7 years ago.

02/25/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :15

"Economy Improving"

There is some good news on the economic front. A survey finds more employers are planning to give their workers raises this year. Merit-based increases are expected to average about 3 percent this year, up from 2-point-7 percent last year.

March:

03/04/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"New Haven Bar Crackdown"

Today we'll be learning more about new legislation aimed at cracking down on "Problem Bars". New Haven Mayor John DeStefano and State Senate majority Leader martin Looney are proposing new legislation that will change how liquor permit renewals are processed. It would give local law enforcement the ability to crack down on problem bars. They say, it's a way to punish establishments that are 'repeat offenders'. The law would be tested as a pilot program for two years in New Haven.

03/07/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

"Rising Gas Prices"

Problems in Libya and throughout the Middle East are continuing to impact oil production. The result: soaring gas prices. The latest LUNDBERG survey says the average price of a gallon of regular self-serve unleaded has jumped 33-cents in the last 2 weeks. Government officials are weighing in on possible plans to release oil from its reserves. According to AAA, the average national for a gallon of regular about \$3.50. Here in Connecticut the average is up to 3.70. That's still a ways away from the record high average set back in July of 2008-- which was \$4.39 in Connecticut.

03/16/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :25

“Dream Immigration”

Governor Malloy says he's ready to sign a bill that would give a college tuition break to the children of immigrants even if they are illegal immigrants. The bill mirrors the proposed Federal Dream Act. Yesterday, dozens of high achieving students from across the state were in Hartford to support the bill. Many of them hope to someday find a path to U-S citizenship and want a college degree to get a good job. Undocumented students would only qualify for the in-state tuition rate if they graduated from a Connecticut high school and had attended Connecticut schools for at least four years.